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WRL News

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The Problem with Salt II

by David McReynolds

This article is an expression of *a* view within WRL—my support for the Hatfield Amendment is *not* necessarily the position of WRL as a whole. At the present time three major groups, while not calling for the defeat of SALT II, have refused to endorse it. These groups are, in addition to War Resisters League, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Pax Christi. I would like to refrer WRL members to an excellent position paper by Patrick Lacefield, "The Left Case Against Salt II" in the June 21 issue of WIN. (send 40¢ to WIN, 503 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217).

The hesitation some of us have with SALT II is not a sectarian haggle that can't support SALT II because it is good but not absolutely perfect. Many of us think it is a very dangerous step toward substituting the goal of "arms control" for disarmament—and we would be more sharply outspoken against the Senate ratification except that we do not want to appear linked to the extreme Right Wing which is against SALT II and also against detente and disarmament of any kind.

SALT II is *not* a step toward disarmament. The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty was never a move toward disarmament. The very words "Arms Limitation" gives the act away. A section of the peace movement—the more conservative section—has played very loose with facts and, in its anxiety to get SALT II ratified, is pushing it as if it meant something close to massive arms reductions. *SALT II is an alternative to disarmament.* From the Soviet point of view it would mean relative military equality with the U.S. and the chance to hold military spending fairly level and shift some resources

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August 6-9 Round Up

There were Hiroshima/Nagasaki activities in over thirty states this year. Commemorations have become a way for Americans to demonstrate against the continuing threat from nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

Activities ranged from rallies, marches, teach-ins, candlelight vigils and religious services to concerts, street theater, fairs, educational displays and civil disobedience actions. Corporations and research labs were targeted including United Nuclear, Bendix, General Dynamics, Lockheed, Pfizer, Motorola, Goodyear Aerospace, the Draper Lab, Riverside Research Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Power plants, utilities, recruting stations, Federal buildings, air and naval bases were the focus of other demonstrations. Religious services were widespread.

Civil Disobedience at Indian Point, New York, August 5. Photo by Dorothy Marder

Human chains were formed around University of California at Berkeley, which operates the Los Alamos and Livermore Labs, and Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station in California. The largest action took place outside New York City at the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant, where over 220 were arrested and 4000 rallied.

These events gave us an opportunity to mourn those who have died and continue to die from the effects of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki thirty-four years ago. These events also gave us an opportunity to speak out against the insanity of the nuclear arms/power race before it is too late.

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toward civilian needs. (From the Chinese point of view SALT II is an effort by the Soviet Union and the U.S. to maintain "great power hegemony" at a lower cost to the great powers).

SALT II, if passed, will not reduce the military budget by a single penny. It will not mean dismantling even one nuclear weapon. It means *arms control* the long term goal of the U.S. Establishment—*as opposed to disarmament.* The SALT talks have the active support of three groups in the U.S. which make for odd political coalitions. First we have the American Establishment—or that part of it which knows military spending is damaging to the economy and an increased rate of spending may well bring on economic and political strains which will threaten the system itself. Next we have those in the U.S. whose political position generally reflects the political line of the Soviet Union—the U.S. Communist Party, U.S. Peace Council, etc. Finally there is that group of well-intentioned people who believe the great powers will disarm if they are talked to in a calm voice—i.e., that group which never really has understood that the arms race was not an accident and that it has now created significant social/political/economic forces which resist any effort to change the situation. (The Soviet Union not only has a tough military establishment which does not want to be dismantled and lose its power base, but it faces a real problem with its long Chinese border, and with an uneasy bloc of nations in East Europe. The U.S. has much more at stake. There is the economic factor. In both the U.S. and Soviet Union the military sector of the economy is the most important—but in the U.S. that sector is in private hands and there are vast profits to be made from military spending. So there is a much greater "dynamic thrust" for the arms race here than in Russia—Soviet economic planners would like to cut back their military spending, while our great corporations are eager to increase it. In addition, we also have a military which enjoys political power. Men such as General Haig, with ties to the CIA and business, do not want their power cut. Finally, while the Soviets face problems with East Europe, the U.S faces problems all over the world, wherever we have major capital investment).

As early as 1977 and early 1978 a kind of division opened in the peace movement. Some groups, such as WRL, began mobilizing for mass actions around the UN Special Session on Disarmament, climaxing in the great rally of May 27th and the mass arrests on June 12th. That "mass mobilization" is based on WRL's political analysis that unless there is massive public pressure the great powers will not move. At the same time other groups, the more moderate sector of the movement, did not take part in any support of the May 27th actions or any mass mobilization—their analysis has led them to feel such actions are unnecessary or may even antagonize the great powers. Historically I think the record will show that the moderates are remarkably naive in dealing with the issue of power and social change.

Long before the SALT talks were completed the moderates had made it clear they would not pressure Carter for a better treaty, but would organize *to support any treaty Carter signed.* Politically this was an incredible blunder. It immediately gave the President a free hand to ignore all forces on his Left—which he did—and to begin making major concessions to the Political Right. He promptly named a general to head the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, moved on to promise the military he would break his promise to the American people and would sharply increase military spending, and finally, in recent days, approved the first steps toward the MX missile program.

By now there is little reason left for even the moderates to support SALT II. The Right Wing has compelled Carter to promise the very increases in military spending which SALT II was supposed to stop! And the fake Cuban crisis may unravel the SALT II treaty altogether. (The crisis over Soviet combat troops was invented by Senator Church who needed a "hard line issue" in his bitter election fight against a Right Wing opponent. In fact the New York *Times* of September 6 refers to "eight years of reports of combat troops" in Cuba. I would certainly and strongly argue with the Soviet Union to get *all* its troops out of Cuba, and for Cuba to get all of its troops out of Africa—but I'd also urge the U.S. immediately surrender its military base at Guantanamo, and urge that France get its troops out of Africa).

THE HATFIELD AMENDMENT

We are left with three choices. First, to support SALT II because "everybody is doing it" and to oppose it looks sectarian; second, to take the risk of looking sectarian by unconditional opposition to SALT II; third, to try to make the best of a difficult situation by supporting the amendment being offered by Senator Hatfield, which can be considered an "amendment from the Left." This amendment, in its essence, states that "The parties agree for the life of this Agreement to terminate all research, development, testing, manufacture and deployment of all nuclear weapons and launcher systems not yet fully deployed." (The fact it is even necessary for Hatfield to offer this amendment shows how weak SALT II is). I believe pacifists should support the Hatfield Amendment, which is in line with the Nuclear Moratorium demand of Mobilization for Survival. *If* the amendment is passed, then I think we can give critical support to SALT II. If it is not passed, I would say SALT II would have need to be opposed.

David McReynolds is on the WRL national staff.

NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR EXECUTIVE AND NATIONAL COMMITTEES

WRL members may nominate candidates for the Executive and National Committees.

There will be 7 openings for the Executive Committee and 6 for the National Committee. Only persons in the New York City area should be nominated for the EC since they must be able to attend monthly meetings in this area. Members outside the New York City area may be nominated for the NC which meets twice a year. The person you nominate for the NC should come from your own area: West, Midwest, South, or East.

Though any WRL member may submit a nomination, nominations by less than five members are subject to the approval of the National Committee as a prerequisite on the ballot. Please submit nominations to the National Office by the November 1 deadline.

Ending Racism—A WRL Priority

At the WRL National Conference, which was billed as "A Nonviolent Perspective on Race and Class," there were a number of special sessions on countering racism. Among other general understandings arrived at was "anyone living in a racist society—such as the one in the United States—has been trained in racist assumptions, practices, and thinking." Also, we focused on a definition (though not accepted by everyone) of racism: (*white* racism, in the U.S.): the power by individuals and groups of one race to systemically oppress those of another race.

The WRL Task Force on Racism*, based on these sessions, made the following proposal which was approved by the WRL National Committee.

THE PROPOSAL OF THE WRL TASK FORCE ON RACISM

1) Each member of the WRL is encouraged to become or remain involved in a minority† group or effort locally. Obviously, some groups or efforts have more grassroots support and/or are more congenial to "WRL means and ends." We don't see this as a patronizing involvement, but as a direct and important, though somewhat neglected, outgrowth of our basic WRL statement of purpose.

2) In the context (1), we urge each member to read and to develop a working relationship with an appropriate local minority publication.

3) WRL members should each encourage minority people to join WRL and/or to attend WRL meetings and actions. In particular, WRL locals, regionals, and national should develop funding for the expenses of *anyone* who cannot afford to attend WRL meetings—in particular: regional and national conferences. But most important here is the one-on-one contact and encouraging of minority individuals participation with WRL.

4) WRL staff (locals, regionals, national) will, with the Task Force, do a formal evaluation of how we have been dealing with racism. And we'll be developing and training a national speakers bureau—some of the speakers being particularly geared to addressing racism.

We do welcome your help. Ralph DiGia at the WRL national office is the key contact for the Task Force.

Ralph DiGia, New York, NY
William Douthard, Albany, NY
Clark Field, Evansville, IN
Steve Gulick, Philadelphia, PA
Inuka Mwanguzi, St. Louis, MO

* The Task Force on Racism is open to all WRL members. Whether or not you wish to be an active task force member, we welcome your support, suggestions, creative criticisms, and materials.

† The word "minority" is used throughout the proposal as the "best" shorthand way of talking about nonwhite people in the U.S.

Draft Update

by Ed Hedemann

The draft registration debate on the floor of the House of Representatives has been postponed until after September 5.

The vote will be on H.R. 4040, the Defense authorization bill. As it stands, this bill would require draft registration for men who turn 18 after December 31, 1980.

In the Senate, S. 109 (introduced by Nunn and Byrd) calls for registration of men between 18 and 26 beginning January 2, 1980, and classification not later than January 1, 1981. The vote on S. 109 will come after H.R. 4040.

There are several proposed amendments to H.R. 4040, such as:

- the Montgomery amendment, requiring the annual induction of up to 200,000 males.
- the Schroeder amendment, that would replace draft registration with a call for a Presidential study of registration and compulsory national service.
- the Weaver amendment would require release of currently classified statistics on how the Pentagon comes up with its requirements for mobilization
- the McCloskey amendment would begin registration a year earlier (January 1, 1980) and *include women.*

Should the Schroeder amendment fail, then there are several Representatives prepared to offer more than 100 additional amendments, such as:

- a solar-powered cruise missile
- an MX deployed on abandoned Amtrak lines, or on Mississippi River barges, or on mothballed ships
- torpedoes, missiles, naval vessels, aircraft and combat vehicles propelled by methane, gasohol, coal, or wind
- conscription of Representatives who vote for the draft
- draft board members would have to do situps, jumping jacks, running in place, and deep knee bends
- the military would have to be made up of 2% Hare Krishnas, 2% from the Divine Light Mission, etc.
- half the military would have to complete a Transcendental Meditation course

The purpose of these amendments is to filibuster H.R. 4040 until the registration bill is separated from it.

In a July 2 *People* Magazine interview, conscription specialist Morris Janowitz stated "It would be very difficult politically to reimpose the draft. The idea of military service as an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate manly traits has declined." Janowitz goes on to argue for a compulsory national service, presumably because it is fairer to oppress all young people than just a select few. Should the draft pass, the War Resisters League, among many other groups around the country, plans to prove the correctness of Janowitz's prediction

Ed Hedemann is on the WRL national staff.

FLASH—DRAFT DEFEATED IN HOUSE

On September 12 the House of Representatives voted 259 to 155 against draft registration by accepting the Schroeder Amendment.

However, a draft registration bill may still be pushed through the Senate later this year.

The International Nonviolent Movement Surfaces in Denmark

by Craig Simpson

It was in the smoke-filled lounge of the last evening of the main conference which one could get a picture of what the international nonviolent movement really was. In the far corner the Catalans, Basques, and Spanish sang, joked and conversed; a Swedish Esperanto enthusiast lead a dance through the center of the room into the hall. A Ghanaian activist talked about the nonviolent movement in his country around a few beers and a small table on the side. Later the Italians from Movimiento Nonviolento gave a clown performance in French with no political analysis and a Norwegian male nurse played "When the Saints Come Marching In" on his trombone as David won another game of Stratego off on a little corner table. This could be any wild party in some international setting but this somehow seemed different. Most everyone in the room was in the center of movements against the military, against nuclear power and against violence in their particular country. Most all were struggling on grassroots levels for a utopian vision of ending war. That's what made the scene unusual.It was just one scene in the 16th Triennial Conference of the War Resisters' International in a Folkhighschool in Southern Denmark. The theme for the conference "Towards Liberation," seemed a little out of place in the lounge that night but knowing the people it seemed very much on their minds.

It was four years since we, as a body, met last (one year late because of internal and logistic problems prevented us from meeting in the foothills outside of Barcelona).

War Resisters' International... we're not very large in comparison to other international organizations. Our conferences aren't like that of the historic meeting of 200,000 anarchists in Spain back in pre-Franco 1935 or the several thousands at the World Peace Conferences in Moscow or Havana. We are mostly dominated by Europeans and Americans, we have a definite problem with male-dominated national sections, our racism shows, we lack a strong financial base for an effective program, and we have little ideological unity among one another, but we are a reality, and despite our problems, an important force for the survival of the planet. Many of us in our small and large communities throughout the US feel rather limited and isolated in our campaigns to stop power plants, to raise consciousness about nuclear holocaust, to stimulate interest in the military's recent attempts to recruit women. Rarely do we get to talk with people outside those communities facing similar depressions and successes that need help and solidarity or can provide us with a little of some. A Triennial of this type is a rare and crucial moment for all of us even though so few are able to attend. It gives one the sense that nonviolence can be used effectively and practically by people of different backgrounds, nationalities, and varying situations. It gives us a sense of movement and struggle.

WRI has been holding international meetings of this type since 1926. It certainly has had its ups and downs since then. This was the third one I personally had attended.

Early in the conference we broke into working groups under several general topics: development of anti-militarism, roots of oppression, and political and social change. It was one of those conferences where you wanted to be in all the working groups but you could only go to one. My choice was "Reconversion" or what we Americans call Peace Conversion. We had activists from California, Belgium, Britain, Sweden (and of course that well known and efficiently organized New Mexico Peace Conversion Project in the Southwest US) who were all working in their own movements to convert war industry. We had a lot of common work and problems. We need to coordinate more and share our experiences. Other working groups explored racism, women in the military (and planned a major conference on Women in the Military for early next year), conscientious objection in varioius countries, the international anti-nuclear movement, the international marches for disarmament, and on and on.

Of course everyone brought their slide shows and movies—a Swedish multimedia show on the military in that country, a show I brought on Native Americans and uranium mining, a movie on repression in West Germany that burnt up in the middle, and one of the history of the peasant struggle on the Larzac plateau in southern France. We even had a peace festival in downtown Sodenborg one night in which our delegate Steve Gulick from Philly gave a wonderful and moving mime on "Johnny I Hardly Know Ya."

I think the most important night was when activists from the Third World got 5 minutes each to talk about their struggles in plenary then met in different room to discuss in lengthy terms on their campaigns. Thanks to Beverly Woodward, (who couldn't attend), we had activists from Costa Rica, India, Thailand, Ghana and Sri Lanka.

Following the large conference was the business meeting and the Council. The business meeting is where the decisions of the International are made. The Council, made up of people elected at large and representatives from each section, implements the policies of

A caucus at WRI Triennial in Sodenborg, Denmark. Photo by David McReynolds

the Triennial. One the first tasks of the Triennial business meeting was to elect a new Council. This year's Council, to serve until the next Triennial, includes: Michael Randle, British activist and theoretician; Mabel Canada, strong and charismatic leader from the Basque anti-military movement; Robert Polet, peace research activist and leader in the Belgian CO movement; Norwegian feminist Ellen Elster of the polar ice bloc and "mother of two lovely children"; Bernadette Ridard, a multinational conglomerate; David McReynolds, another Yank; Helga Weber, an activist from the Grazwurtz/Revolution network in Germany; Ulf Norenius; Hein Van Wick, Jean Fabre; Pietro Pinna were the others who were elected. The elections were close and tight and the Polar Bloc were the first in WRI history to campaign with posters all over the halls and in meeting rooms.

The WRL's delegation was a well chosen but not always unified group. Each national section is allowed 5 delegates and one representative. Ralph DiGia who balances the books at 339, Steve Gulick who is part time theater and war tax resister in Philadelphia, and Inuka Mwanguzi a St. Louis social worker who continuously challenges us on our lack of concern and involvement with the racist roots of war. Ann Davidon and David McReynolds were members at large of the Council and I am the elected representative for the WRL to the international (and why I have to write this article).

Details and tons of paper are available on the Conference results. Some are very interesting and important to our local work. But for me the highlights of the Conference were a mixture of events and feelings: it was planning a nonviolent campaign against NATO over buttermilk soup; it was a midnight swim in the cold inland Danish sea; it was sharing exciting new ideas on campaigns against weapons factories from an activist from Liege; or playing with the children who don't know the language I was speaking but seemed to like me anyway; or even watching Myrtle Solomon, WRI chairwoman, facilitate a chaotic council meeting. And I guess it was also lying awake in my sleeping bag on the gymnasium floor surrounded by the snores of Catalans, Italians, British and French nonviolent activists. This certainly was my best overall trip to Europe in my work with WRI. And in returning to the atomic state of New Mexico, I certainly come back with more hope and enthusiasm. I know that I'm part of a growing network of warm and dedicated human beings that are doing what I'm trying to do in Albuquerque—just save the planet for future generations. We should all feel an affinity with struggles around the world and sleep a little better at night.

Craig Simpson is an Albuquerque activist and WRL representative to WRI Council.

MISSING WINs AND LIBERATIONS

The WRL office is missing the following WIN Magazine and Liberation Magazine issues, and would appreciate anyone who can send copies to help complete our files:

WIN Magazine
- January 15 through April 15, 1966 (issues 1-7)

Liberation Magazine
- August 1956
- January 1957
- November/December 1972
- 1974 all issues, except February, May/June, September/October
- 1975 all issues, except May
- 1976 all issues except Fall

ASHTON JONES DIES

by Jim Peck

Rev. Ashton Jones, the most militant nonviolent actionist to come from the South in our times, died June 6 at the age of 82 in Vista, California. He was a longtime member of WRL. Though he did participate in group actions, most of his activities were individual actions, for which he suffered many beatings and jailings.

The only comparable contemporary figure in the peace movement was Ammon Hennacy, who died in 1971. But whereas Ammon's actions were limited to the peace issue, Ashton's also included civil rights. Countless times, Ashton was beaten and jailed in the South for defending the rights of blacks. He would amaze Southerners when, with his slow Southern drawl, he would speak out against the regional racial prejudices.

New Barbara Deming Pamphlet Available

To Fear Jane Alpert Is to Fear Ourselves and Other Letters has just been published by WRL. This 19-page paperback was written to analyze "the attack upon Alpert as an attempt to destroy radical feminism."

If you would like a copy, please send 75¢ to War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.

WRL NEWS

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WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 20 countries and individuals in more than 80 countries.

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Ralph DiGia
Ed Hedemann
Grace Hedemann
David McReynolds

WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

For many years, he and his wife, Marie, toured with U.S. in their Peace Car, which was inscribed with peace slogans. As Jean Zwickel wrote in her PEACEMAKER obit: the car "often attracted violent opposition—a bullet hole, molasses in the gas tank, slashed tires." In 1947 they carried their peace message abroad—into 19 countries. The trip was cut short when the State Department, without explanation, canceled their visas.

The first time I met Ashton was after getting out of prison in World War 2, when he drove some of us in his Peace Car to Washington for the first of many demonstrations for amnesty for World War 2 objectors. The last time I saw him was in 1977 in Japan where, at the age of 80 (along with a friend of about the same age) he had journeyed to join the first American contingent to participate in the annual Tokyo-Hiroshima peace walk.

WRL Organizers Program

by Scott Abbott

I hate to say that I came to the War Resisters League Training Program for Organizers in hopes of later receiving a financial reward, but in some respects it's true. There are many of us political activists spread throughout the country that dream of one day getting paid, however meagerly, for something we've been doing anyway—organizing. Imagine being able to spend full time working toward the goals, ideals and changes that we all believe this world needs. It was with such dreams that I left California in mid-August to attend the WRL Training program for Organizers, being held in both Voluntown, Connecticut, and in New York City.

When I arrived at the Community for Nonviolent Action farm in Voluntown where the first 10 days of the training was to be held, I was introduced to a group of about 20 people who were to share the two week training with me. Over the next 10 days I learned what a unique gathering of people we were. Diversity is the best word that describes us. We not only came from many different parts of the country but were also involved in many diverse political concerns such as social justice, feminism, anti-draft, and anti-nuclear efforts. Some of us came with a strong religious background. Some of us were older than others. Over-all, our diversity as a group became very important to our training environment. We all shared and learned from each other as much as we learned from the training sessions themselves.

August Organizers' Program: [standing] Stephen Tosh, Scott Abbott, Larry Shalda, Suzanne Haymond, Steve Harms, Reva Seybolt, Ardeth Platte, John Miller, Susan Davidoff, Larry Roth, Paul Kabat; [kneeling] Suzanne Watson, Carol Gilbert; missing is Caroline Rosen.

Diversity is also a good word to use in describing the training program itself. In Voluntown we participated in three workshops per day (communal meals were shared in between) discussing such philosophies as Gandhian nonviolence and anarchism, learning skills such as silk screening and poster design, and exploring different ways to improve our organizing skills through better planning and improved group process techniques. The variety of workshops offered were led by many inspiring speakers who took the time to come to Voluntown to share their experiences with us.

We also had access to an abundance of reading material—leaflets, magazines, booklets and resource packets containing all kinds of information. In our free time we also browsed through the CNVA library. In the evening we saw films and slideshows on various social issues that helped us visualize and inter-relate all the concepts that we all had been discussing. Although the training schedule was somewhat demanding, the experience of studying many different issues and concepts and continually inter-relating them was so important in forming my political base as an organizer.

Not only did we discuss the issues, concerns and philosophies of an organizer, but we also got to visit the offices of many different active

June Organizers' Program: [in back] John Myers, Mary Murphy, Joy Krementz, Michael Ross, Sue Meeking; [in front] Matisse Enzer, Annie Prince, Steven Rubin; missing are Sunshine Southerland and Stephen Zunes.

organizations located in New York City. Our group learned first hand the problems of fundraising, of outreach, and of basic organizing that continually hampers any organization.

The real learning experience for me however was after I left the East Coast to return home. My thinking process had been stimulated. I inter-related concepts and issues more easily. I now had a better definition of "the movement" and felt I had better contact with more people and groups who are working for change. I still want that organizer's job that I was dreaming about, but I'm more interested now in expanding my own political awareness and sharing those ideas with others. A good organizer is after all more of a source of inspiration for people to learn about new ideas than a paid job in some office. The WRL Organizer's Training Program was a program of inspiration for me and I'm sure for the rest of that diverse group of people that I grew to love during our two weeks together.

Scott Abbott works for the Abalone Alliance in Southern California.

The March on Reidsville

by Jim Peck

Starting on Hiroshima Day, blacks and whites together set off from Savannah for a 60-mile protest march on Reidsville State Prison, where Georgia's executions take place. Aims of the march were to end the death penalty, close down the prison and free the Reidsville 6, who are charged with killing a white guard and 2 white prisoners in a prison protest action a year ago. The march was sponsored by a coalition including a number of prominent individuals and some organizations, including WRL.

I joined the march on its final day, August 11, walking the 7 miles from Reidsville to the prison site, though I still was in a corset for my broken back. The heat was scorching, as it had been throughout the march. There were some 200 marchers that day including Dick Gregory and State Representative Hosea Williams.

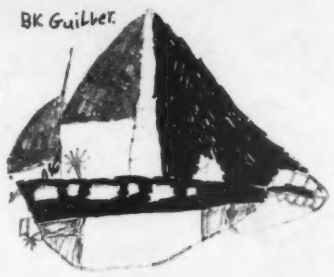
Near the prison entrance is a small creek forded by a narrow bridge. Not until we reached it did we find out that the authorities had decided to make an issue of our crossing that bridge and had obtained an injunction forbidding it. It thus became a symbol, like the Pettus Bridge on the Selma-Montgomery March, as Hosea Williams pointed out at a gathering of the marchers to decide what to do. So, it was decided that those willing to face arrest would proceed across the bridge whereas those who didn't, would halt at its approach.

Sixty-six of us crossed the bridge and were ushered into a giant paddywagon for transportation to the Reidsville Courthouse, where we were charged with contempt for violating the injunction. However, Superior Court Judge James Findley dissolved the injunction as of 6 p.m. the following day, so we won't have to face trial. Following our release, 7 of our group, including Dick Gregory, returned to cross the bridge, were re-arrested and jailed.

The March on Reidsville is *not* the end of the campaign. A second crossing of the bridge was set for the following Saturday, with further actions planned. The coalition is determined to pursue its campaign to a successful conclusion.

A second march took place on August 18, from the courthouse to the prison. Some 200 persons walked the 7 miles. Again the county obtained an injunction against crossing the bridge near the prison. But there were no arrests. The marchers proceeded across the bridge and held a rally in view of the prison.

YEAR OF THE CHILD POSTER



IT'LL BE A GREAT DAY WHEN OUR DAY CARE CENTERS HAVE ALL THE MONEY THEY NEED AND THE NAVY HAS TO HOLD A BAKE SALE TO BUY BATTLESHIPS

This 3-color "Year of the Child" poster is now available from WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.

☐ Please send me copies of the "Year of the Child" poster at $1 each (for 5-24 copies, send 75¢ each; 25-49 copies, send 60¢ each; 50-99 copies, send 45¢ each; for 100 or more copies, send 35¢ each).

☐ Please send me copies of the "Year of the Child" poster on *heavy stock*, at $1.50 each.

Enclosed is $___ for the quantity check above.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS

The good news:

The program of the WRL is supported to a great extent by the sale of our annual calendar. Most members buy them for themselves and give them as gifts. Because this year's calendar is a uniquely handsome compilation of political art, we believe that we will have more sales than ever and the work to end war will profit more than ever.

The bad news:

Some members don't get their copy of the calendar because they forget to order or the order form fails to reach them. And filling out coupons year after year (not to mention filling out checks) can get to be a bother.

The solution:

A life-time subscription to the calendar. Only $100. You'll never have to fear, your calendar will be here (every year).

☐ What a great idea! Sign me up for a lifetime subscription to the annual WRL Calendar. Enclosed in $100.

☐ I'm a little short this week. Enclosed is $ for calendars. ($4 each, 4 for $15).

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

WRL National Conference on Race & Class

by Helen Michalowski

Amidst pouring rain and some flooding, the WRL National Conference took place in a beautiful wooded area near Chattanooga, TN from July 20—23, 1979. Titled "A Nonviolent Perspective on Race and Class," the conference drew about 100 participants, at least half of whom came from the Southern States. Minority peoples were present in good number, including Blacks, an Asian American, lesbians and gay men. Ages of the people spanned from 4 months to over 60.

Friday, the opening night, people went around the dining hall and said where they came from, what work they were doing and what had brought them to the conference. People found it encouraging to hear about all the nonviolent organizing going on around the country: organizing food co-ops, nonviolent training, tenants unions, women's centers, support for labor strikes and boycotts. People spoke of work to advance prisoners rights, of efforts to provide health and safety information to unorganized chemical workers, of getting arrested for anti-draft leafletting. From Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and California came reports of successful anti-nuclear weapons and power organizing and peace conversion work in progress. Representatives from the Mid-west spoke of their effective disruption of a conventional arms bazaar in that area. For the most part, a good awareness of socialist, anarchist, feminist, nonviolent principles were evident throughout.

Saturday evening, conference participants gathered to hear talks by Dudley Weeks, Education Director of the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change; Inuka Mwanguzi, Black community housing worker from St. Louis, Missouri; and Ann Braden of the Southern Organizing Committee and long-time civil rights organizer. Dudley encouraged us in our pursuit of nonviolence, urged the continuing development of supportive communities while guarding against exclusionary attitudes and practices, and spoke to the need for each developing a particular focus while strengthening efforts to connect issues and constituencies. Inuka prodded white WRL members to reach out to build relationships with people in the Black community. Ann spoke of Black struggles as affecting the very cornerstone of the US economic and social system, and the growing need to repair and build the communication and support network between the peace movement and racial minorities. The talks, interspersed with songs, left people feeling challenged, renewed, and inspired. Following the talks, musicians from the Highlander Center led songs, encouraged others to lead songs, and played music for jig and square dancing.

Conference organizers Diane Spaugh and Steve Sumerford. Photo by Karl Bissinger

WRL National Committee. *Photo by David McReynolds*

Four sets of workshops took place Saturday and Sunday, covering topics such as Draft/Counter-recruitment, Issues of Race and Class in Alternative Communities, Prisons, WRL History and Campaigns, Women and Work, Disarmament/Peace Conversion, Neighborhood Organizing, Anti-Racist Consciousness Raising, the J.P. Stevens Campaign, Women and the Military, Nonviolence Theory and Practice, War Tax Resistance, Socialism, Anarchism, the Philippines, Nuclear Power, and the Death Penalty. Plenty of free time allowed the opportunity for caucus meetings, spontaneous workshops, recreation, rest.

In general evaluation, people felt the conference incorporated well its theme "Nonviolent Perspectives on Race and Class." The conference also provided an excellent and rare opportunity to make personal contact with and learn from other nonviolent people active in differenct communities all over the country.

After the conference, the National Committee (elected representatives from regions and WRL locals) met with WRL staff and conference participants who wished to stay, and discussed WRL program, finances, agenda, staff changes and other business. Two exciting developments which received endorsement from the National Committee are increased WRL organizing efforts in the Mid-west and increased activities by the Prison Task Force. A proposal by the Racism Task Force to enhance WRL's efforts to reach out to minority communities was also approved.

The next National Conference will take place in 1981, probably in the Mid-west, to allow for regional conferences again next year. The next National Committee meeting is scheduled for March 1980 in New York City.

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